

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting: December 16, 2012

It was determined that a quorum of Board members was present and the meeting was called to order by Craig Whalley at 12:00 noon PST. Also present were Dru Boyd, Joe Mott, Steve Snyder, Robert Stump, Carola Ziermann, and Tim Reith.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda this month consisted of the Minutes, the Financial Report, and three Committee Reports.

Minutes: Tim

Craig and Joe noted two errors in the November Minutes and Tim agreed to correct them. With those corrections, the Board voted unanimously to accept them. Also included were the Minutes of the Special Meeting regarding Absentee Voting that was held on November 25.

Financial Report: Carola

It was an expensive month: Robert was paid and LifeRing Press expenses were high, the latter being due to the royalties for Marty due to the 400 books sold to Canada. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

Committee Reports

According to the Tri-Annual Committee Reporting Schedule, three committee reports were due this month:

- The Online Forum Support
- LifeRing Press
- Strategic Planning.

Online Forum Support: Steve

There was a detailed discussion regarding our presence on Facebook.

The discussion continued subsequently in email discussions among Joe, Steve, Craig, Troy, and Carola, and while no firm conclusions were drawn (at least in the Secretary's mind), some clarifying comments were made and are summarized here:

- *The settings for a "group" provide a choice among "open" (anyone can see the members and post comments), "closed" (anyone can see the members but only members can post), and "secret" (only members can see anything). Steve changed the setting from "closed" to "secret" to protect the anonymity of members. Steve went on to comment that if we do move back to "closed," we should describe the implications of this, regarding how much content will be visible,*

in an "Introduction."

- *Someone who understands Facebook, and is willing to take on the task of running the site to resolve these issues, is needed.*

Fundraising Report: Mahala, Carola, and Joe

Mahala submitted the Report.

Carola and Robert were thanked for sending out the appeal. Carola will include a request for financial support in the upcoming Winter Newsletter. Another solicitation will be posted in the Spring Newsletter. Mahala previously requested that everyone on the Board provide a monetary contribution so that we can say we have 100% Board participation for fundraising purposes. However, Carola commented that everyone in a Lifering leadership position contributes much time and effort, and if people cannot give their time, then a monetary gift would be appropriate; "Give Something Back." For the record, Carola disagreed that everyone on the Board should make a monetary donation. Mahala commented that fundraisers assume that the Board is giving their time and effort already, but they also assume that the Board is giving financially as well; this is the funder's point of view. Joe commented that if Board members donate only a small monetary contribution, then the statement could be made regarding full Board monetary participation.

Mahala will provide a full report in January regarding various fundraising meetings that she will be attending.

Strategic Planning: Mahala, Tim, and Joe

Mahala submitted the Report.

Tim commented that although only the summary of an international organization proposal was provided in the report, a full draft of it is available, as written by Miriam Cotton in Ireland. The report is quite detailed. He suggested that there was not time enough now to go through it at this meeting, but with Miriam's permission he would circulate it to the board and have a special meeting on it, analogous to the Absentee Ballot meeting last month. Joe commented that he was pleased that we were working on national and international relationships. Tim recognized that a large part of the report this month was written by Mahala. Joe thought it would be a good idea to have a separate short focused meeting on this subject. Mahala commented that it was a significant enough structural change that it deserved a series of planned meetings, rather than discussing the whole thing at one time. The draft contains some possible bylaws changes and because of this, a discussion of the proposal might be better if delayed until after the 2013 Congress so that only one set of bylaws changes at a time would be dealt with. Tim suggested that Joe and Jeff should take a look at the proposal to determine if any possible bylaw changes would be minor or substantial.

Craig suggested that John Banks, the new Executive Director in Canada, be asked to join the Planning Committee. Tim, as chair of that committee, agreed to write a letter to John with an invitation to join the group.

Mahala reiterated how important Strategic Planning was to Fundraising. Having a plan with quantifiable goals will become increasingly more important, and that it is quite appropriate that she is participating in the Planning Committee.

Awards: Craig, Steve, and Carola

It was agreed that we would extend a posthumous award to Lee Howard who passed away a few weeks ago. Tim agreed to prepare the award and send it if someone would provide him the appropriate information. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to acknowledge him in this fashion. Carola suggested that this was something that we should mention in our upcoming newsletter. A similar award was presented to Kat ("Kishi") Wyke recently, and this will be included as well.

Adjournment: Craig

Craig entertained a motion to adjourn which was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting concluded at 1 PM PST.

Tim Reith, Board Secretary

December 23, 2012